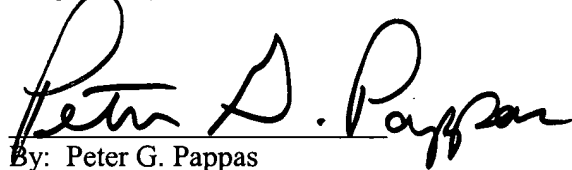


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Remarks**

Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) to German Patent Application No. 102 44 928.7 filed September 25, 2002. The specification has been amended to include the priority application information. The claims have been amended to put the claims in a more preferred format for U.S. examination, to eliminate multiple dependencies, and to more clearly recite the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Pappas", is written over a horizontal line.

By: Peter G. Pappas  
Reg. No. 33,205

Date: March 24, 2005

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP  
999 Peachtree Street NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996  
Telephone: (404) 853-8064  
Facsimile: (404) 853-8806

Attorney Docket No. 17346-0016